

Context Clues: Example**STUDENT OBJECTIVES**

- Identify and use example context clues to understand unfamiliar words

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

You will need photocopies for students of:

- **Student Lesson Summary**, p. 129
- **Practice Worksheets**, A and B, pp. 130–131
- **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 132

Teach

1. Context Clues: Pass out the **Lesson Summary** and guide students through the **Academic Vocabulary**. Tell students that they can often use **context** to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. **Context clues** are words and phrases that surround a word and give clues to its meaning. Point out one type of context clue that is sometimes used—the **example**.

2. Teaching Context Clues: Example: Use the **Lesson Summary** to review the steps for using example context clues.

- **Example Clues:** Remind students that an example clue suggests the meaning of an unfamiliar word. Write the following sample sentence on the board. The word *creations* may be unfamiliar. Ask: What example clue for the word *creations* appears in this sentence? (*handbags, scarves, and hats*) What word or words signal this clue? (*especially*) What does the example clue suggest that *creations* means? (*It suggests that creations means things that are made, or created.*)

EXAMPLE All the designer's creations were colorful, especially her handbags, scarves, and hats.

- **Meaning:** Once students have defined the word using an example context clue, have students try using the word in another sentence. If students are still having trouble with the word, suggest that they use a dictionary. Finally, suggest that they write the word, its meaning, and its context in a special vocabulary notebook.
- **Guided Practice:** Have a student read aloud the “Example” in the **Lesson Summary**.
 - For both unfamiliar words, have a volunteer read the example context clue that suggests its meaning, and give a simple definition of the word based on the context. (*stringent: example clue-including a 14-minute lunch period and three minutes between classes; definition-strict; amphibians: example clue-a toad, a frog, and a salamander; definition-a type of animal that can live on both land and in water*)
 - Finally, have students enter the words, their meanings, and new context sentences into a vocabulary notebook.

QUICK CHECK. Write the following sentence on the board.

Grace found the lunch very unpalatable—for instance, the pizza was cold and soggy and the fruit salad had turned brown.

CONTEXT CLUES: EXAMPLE, CONTINUED

- Ask students to use the example context clue to determine the meaning of the underlined word. (*The word unpalatable means not tasty or not appealing*)
- Ask: What word and/or punctuation signals the context clue? (*a dash and the words “for instance”*)

Practice and Apply

Practice activities for example context clues appear on pp. 130–131.

- Assign **Practice Worksheet A** to students who need more structured activities.
- Assign **Practice Worksheet B** to grade-level and above-level students.

Answer Key: Practice Worksheet A

1. **CIRCLE:** *including*; **UNDERLINE:** *measles, mumps, and scarlet fever*; **diseases:** *serious illnesses*
2. **CIRCLE:** *such as*; **UNDERLINE:** *ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and relish*; **condiments:** *sauces and other things used to flavor foods after they are cooked*
3. **CIRCLE:** *especially*; **UNDERLINE:** *ponds, puddles, and lakes*; **environments:** *the areas around people, animals, or things*
4. **CIRCLE:** *for instance*; **UNDERLINE:** *she never complained, never got tired, and never wanted to stop*; **boundless:** *without end*
5. **CIRCLE:** *the “:” punctuation mark*; **UNDERLINE:** *on a boat at sea, always swimming and diving*; **aquatic:** *having to do with water*
6. **CIRCLE:** *for example*; **UNDERLINE:** *she woke at 5 a.m., ran six miles, and then spent three hours in the weight room*; **rigorous:** *strict and difficult*
7. *athletes*
8. *fixtures*
9. *glamorous*
10. *charisma*

Answer Key: Practice Worksheet B

1. *example clue; meaning: fussy*
2. *definition clue; meaning: jealous*
3. *example clue; meaning: dogs*
4. *example clue; meaning: colors*
5. *definition clue; meaning: begin*
6. *Sample: She was very avaricious—all she thought about was making money and she never gave any of it away.*
7. *Sample: To build a birdhouse you need materials like wood, nails, and dowels.*
8. *Sample: Everything about the pompous man bugged me, including his smug smile and snobby statements.*
9. *Sample: The girl gave a sardonic smile as she passed on the nasty gossip.*
10. *Sample: The roof’s parapet was decorated with Art Deco motifs.*

Assess and Reteach

Use these guidelines to determine if students need the **Reteaching Worksheet**.

Practice Worksheet A: Students should correctly answer all of items 1–6 and at least two of items 7–10.

Practice Worksheet B: Students should correctly answer items 1–5 and two of 6–10.

For students who need reteaching, review the **Lesson Summary**. Focus on the examples, and relate them to the definitions in **Academic Vocabulary**. Brainstorm one or two new examples with students. Then have them complete the **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 132.

Answer Key: Reteaching Worksheet

1. *Underlined Word: abandoned. Signal Word: no word, but a dash. Example Clue: dirty, skinny, and alone. Meaning: left alone for good.*
2. *Underlined Word: docile. Signal Word: for instance. Example Clue: it didn't mind being petted or picked up. Meaning: easily touched and held by people; easy to control.*
3. *Underlined Word: felines. Signal Word: especially, including. Example Clue: tigers; cats and kittens. Meaning: members of the cat family.*
4. *Underlined Word: oriented. Signal Word: the punctuation mark ":". Example Clue: exploring, sniffing, and finding all the hiding spots. Meaning: settled in, got one's bearings*
5. *Underlined Word: luxurious. Signal Word: things like. Example Clue: sushi, caviar, and rotisserie chicken. Meaning: high-quality and expensive.*